

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Official Action mailed September 22, 2004.

In the present paper, Applicants have amended claims 1, 7, 15 and 24. Claims 1-29 are now presented for the Examiner's consideration in view of the following remarks:

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 7, 15 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as indefinite. Applicants have amended those claims to address each of the Examiner's concerns. Applicants therefore submit that those claims now meet the definiteness requirements of Section 112.

The Present Application

The present application is directed to a system and method for displaying content from multiple providers. "Content," as used in the present application, means information areas such as the entertainment, business, legal, medical and related areas, that is placed within a hypermedia document such as text, audio, video, graphics and animation (Specification, p. 2, lines 11-20).

As shown in FIG. 1 of the present application, a proxy multiplexer 70 assembles and integrates content received from the service providers 20, 30, 40, 50. The assembled and integrated content is forwarded to a service control component 80, which displays on a user's Internet browser 90.

The system and method of the invention allow authentication, connection and access to multiple content providers automatically, without the need for a user to log in to each individual

site and configure a window for that site. Instead, current, real-time content from multiple Web service providers is displayed automatically, without user interaction.

In one exemplary embodiment claimed in amended independent claim 1, a computer readable medium is provided, having a computer program encoded thereon. The medium has a first portion with a first program segment for facilitating a selection of preferences for information to be displayed as part of a service control component. The medium has a second portion with a second program segment for receiving over a communication network content information from a plurality of service providers in accordance with said selected preferences. Finally, the medium has a third portion with a third program segment for displaying the content information within the service control component. At least one of the plurality of service providers is represented in the service control component by a unique icon that includes real time status updates.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,128,644 to Nozaki ("Nozaki") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,054,987 to Richardson ("Richardson").

The Nozaki Patent

Nozaki discloses a system for distributing load among a plurality of servers in the World Wide Web. As shown in FIG. 1, the system includes a server status management means 5a that obtains load information ("amount of processing") relating to servers 1a, 2a in the Web (Nozaki, col. 5, lines 49-54). That information is transmitted to a client system 6 (col. 5, lines 58-63). Later, in response to a processing request, the client system 6 uses that load information to select

a server experiencing the lowest load (col. 6, lines 9-17). The processing request is then output directly to the selected server (col. 6, lines 17-19).

The Richardson Patent

Richardson discloses a technique for managing a network. Richardson is based on a system called "Network Node Manager" that graphically displays network status as a map of icons. Severity of events relating to the icons can be displayed as icon colors (Richardson, col. 1, line 64 – col. 2, line 1). For example, printers may be monitored using the system to determine whether they are out of ink, etc. (col. 2, lines 17-26).

Discussion

Introduction

To establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. M.P.E.P. § 2143.03 (citing *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974)).

"In determining the propriety of the Patent Office case for obviousness in the first instance, it is necessary to ascertain whether or not the reference teachings would appear to be sufficient for one of ordinary skill in the relevant art having the reference before him to make the proposed substitution, combination, or other modification." *In re Linter*, 458 F.2d 1013, 1016, 173 USPQ 560, 562 (CCPA 1972).

Applicants respectfully assert that, for the reasons stated below, the Examiner has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness because the teachings of Nozaki in view of

Richardson regarding several claim limitations are not sufficient for one of ordinary skill in the art to make the combination proposed by the Examiner.

Claims 1-6

Independent claim 1, as amended, contains several limitations not taught or suggested by the cited art. Initially, claim 1 requires:

a first portion of said medium having a first
program segment for facilitating a selection of preferences for
content information to be displayed as part of a service control
component.

The Examiner has alleged that that limitation is completely taught by Nozaki. Nozaki, however, does not teach selecting preferences for displaying, and does not teach displaying content information. As to selecting preferences for displaying, the Examiner has pointed to the passages at col. 6, lines 9-19 and at col. 7, lines 25-52 as teaching that limitation. Applicants respectfully submit that those passages are directed to the use of server load information in selecting a server experiencing the lowest load, and have nothing to do with selecting preferences for displaying information.

Applicants further submit that Nozaki does not teach “content information to be displayed as a part of a service control component” as required by the subject clause of claim 1. Nozaki at most “obtains information on the amount of processing of the server” (col. 5, lines 51-52). Such network status information cannot be considered “content” as that term is normally defined and as it is defined in the present specification. Furthermore, Nozaki nowhere discloses displaying that information.

Claim 1 also requires:

a second portion of said medium having a second program segment for receiving over a communication network content information from a plurality of service providers in accordance with said selected preferences.

The Examiner has alleged that Nozaki teaches the limitations of that clause in the Abstract, at col. 5, lines 36-67 and at col. 7, line 37 - col. 8, line 43. Claim 1, as amended, requires that content information is received from a plurality of services providers, in accordance with selected preferences. The request distribution means 6a of Nozaki “obtains information on the load of each of the servers 1a, 2a” (col. 5, lines 58-59) but does not receive any content information. Further, the “load information” obtained in Nozaki is not in accordance with any selected preferences, as required by claim 1.

Claim 1 further requires:

a third portion of said medium having a third program segment for displaying said content information within the service control component.

The Examiner alleges that Nozaki, at col. 1, lines 22-41 and at col. 7, line 8 – col. 9, line 11, discloses such a third program segment. Applicant respectfully submits that nowhere in those passages of Nozaki is any disclosure of displaying information from a plurality of service providers in a service control component, as required by claim 1. The “information on the processing of the servers” referred to above is never displayed. The passages cited by the Examiner refer to (1) a general description of the client/server system of FIG. 1, and (2) details of server status reception, respectively. No disclosure of displaying any information is included in those passages.

Furthermore, Richardson does not cure the deficiencies of Nozaki. Richardson discloses events relating to network devices. No display of content received from a plurality of servers is disclosed by Richardson.

For each of the above reasons, Applicants submit that independent claim 1 is patentable over Nozaki in view of Richardson, and that dependent claims 2-6 by their dependency are patentable for at least those reasons as well.

Claims 7-14

For the same reasons set forth above, Applicants submit that Nozaki does not teach a proxy multiplexer which receives and aggregates content information from a plurality of providers, or an end user service control component that receives the content information and represents the respective providers as icons displaying the most current information, as required by independent claim 7.

Applicants therefore submit that claim 7, and claims 8 through 14 which depend on claim 7, are patentable over the cited art for that additional reason.

Claims 15-23

Claim 15 requires a proxy multiplexer for receiving and aggregating information and content from a plurality of providers, and an end user control component that represents the providers as icons updated whenever new information and content is provided.

Applicants respectfully submit that those elements are not disclosed in the cited art for the reasons described above, and that independent claim 15, and dependent claims 16-23, are patentable at least for those reasons.

Claims 24-29

Claim 24 is a method for displaying content from a plurality of service providers.

Applicants respectfully submit that the limitations of claim 24 are not disclosed in the cited art for the reasons described above, and that independent claim 24, and dependent claims 25-29, are patentable at least for those reasons.

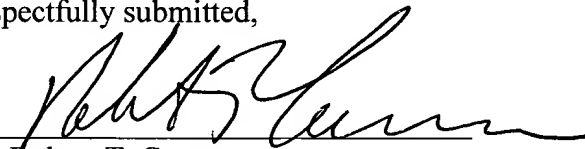
Conclusion

Applicants therefore respectfully assert that all the claims in the case are now in condition for allowance, and earnestly request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowance.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the present case, the Examiner should not hesitate in contacting the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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